

## Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 066885

P R 221515Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 249

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASS KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5658

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS FYI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SF US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SEPT 16 CINCINNATI SPEECH - MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 222166

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1. WANTING TO RAISE SUBJECT OF SECRETARY'S CINCINNATI

SPEECH AT FONMIN CHATTI LEVEL (SINCE LAST WEEK CHATTI AND I HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION OF ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS), I DELAYED MY PRESENTATION UNTIL I COULD SEE CHATTI MORNING SEPT 22. CHATTI HAD BEEN TIED UP EARLIER WITH CONSECUTIVE VISITS OF BELGIAN FONMIN AND SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM PRESIDENT ASSAD, ABID DAOUDI.

2. I HANDED CHATTI ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF FULL SPEECH, TOGETHER WITH FRENCH AND ARABIC TRANSLATIONS OF MIDDLE EAST PORTIONS. I POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS MAJOR PUBLIC ADDRESS AND STRESSED IN PARTICULAR OUR EXPECTATIONS VIS-A-VIS SYRIA. I RECALLED THAT HE AND PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAD EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOW-UP SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS DURING MY CALL AT PALACE ON SEPTEMBER 11. AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED IN HIS CINCINNATI ADDRESS, USG WILL SERIOUSLY ENCOURAGE THESE NEGOTIATIONS. I NOTED THAT USG SHARES TUNISIAN VIEW THAT MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED.

3. CHATTI SAID THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS SO FAR, I.E. SUCCESSFUL CULMINATION OF SECOND ROUND OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND INDICATIONS THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROCEED SOON BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY NEGATIVE ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD MOVEMENT ON GOLAN. NOT ONLY WERE ISRAELI LEADERS STATING THAT THEY WOULD NOT EVACUATE GOLAN -- EXCEPT FOR PERHAPS A FEW HUNDRED YARDS -- BUT THEY HAVE EVEN REJECTED IDEA OF CREATING DEMILITARIZED ZONE ON GOLAN.

4. CHATTI REVEALED THAT SYRIANS HAD TOLD TUNISIANS THAT USG HAD PROMISED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO COMMENCE IN OCTOBER. THIS IS GOOD CONTINUED CHATTI, BUT ALSO VERY IMPORTANT ARE CONCRETE RESULTS FLOWING FROM NEGOTIATIONS.

SYRIANS ARE PESSIMISTIC, HE CLAIMED, AND THEY SPECULATE THAT NOTHING SOLID WILL "HAPPEN" UNTIL PERHAPS AFTER U.S. ELECTIONS IN 1976. CHATTI SAID THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD COULD NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLY WAIT THIS LONG. ASSAD, WHOM CHATTI CHARACTERIZED AS BEST FRIEND U.S. COULD EVER HAVE WITHIN CURRENT AND POTENTIAL SYRIAN LEADERSHIP, IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE. IF NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT PRODUCE RESULTS  
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WITHIN NEAR FUTURE, ASSAD WILL FIND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PROCEED FURTHER.

5. CHATTI AGAIN ALLUDED TO ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE RE GOLAN. EVEN BEFORE CONCLUSION OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SECOND INTERIM ACCORD, HE COMMENTED, ISRAEL HAD ANNOUNCED IN PRINCIPLE ITS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE UP THE TWO SINAI PASSES AND THE ABOU RUDAIS OIL FIELD. IT HAD ONLY BEEN A QUESTION OF WORKING OUT

MODALITIES AND DETAILS. IN CASE OF GOLAN, HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO ISRAELI ADVANCE INDICATION OF GIVE WHATSOEVER.

6. I URGED THAT CHATTI BE LESS PESSIMISTIC. ALREADY PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONT AND ONCE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACCORD ARE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS OR SO, ATMOSPHERE SHOULD BE MORE CONDUCTIVE TO LESS INFLEXIBLE ISRAELI POSITION RE GOLAN. I NOTED REPORT IN LAST FEW DAYS THAT ISRAELI CABINET HAD PIGEONHOLED DEMANDS BY ISRAELI GROUPS TO ESTABLISH SEVERAL MORE SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN. THIS IS A FAVORABLE SIGN.

7. CHATTI SAID THAT GOT SUPPORTS USG STEP-BY-STEP EFFORTS BUT IN ORDER TO BE EFFECTIVE THEY HAD TO BE INTEGRATED, NOT "PARTITIONED." BY THIS HE SAID HE MEANT THAT PROGRESS HAD TO BE MADE WITH REGARD TO ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEM WITHIN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.  
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